

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for forming leads, comprising:
2 forming a liftoff mask having a desired width;
3 forming leads contiguous to and on opposite sides of the liftoff mask;
4 removing the liftoff mask, the removal of the liftoff mask leaving fencing on the
5 leads;
6 forming a layer of carbon over the leads after removal of the mask; and
7 performing chemical mechanical polishing on the leads at the fencing to
8 preferentially remove a portion of the leads including the fencing and a portion of the
9 carbon layer.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the desired width of the
2 liftoff mask is a trackwidth for a magnetoresistive sensor.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the forming a liftoff mask
2 having a desired width further comprises forming a single layer liftoff mask.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising removing any
2 remaining carbon using an oxygen plasma.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the forming leads on
2 opposite sides of the liftoff mask further comprises depositing leads using a sputtering
3 process.

1 6. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a magnetic read sensor,
2 comprising:
3 forming a magnetoresistive sensor element; and
4 forming leads to the magnetoresistive sensor element, the forming the leads to the
5 magnetoresistive sensor element further comprising:
6 forming a liftoff mask having a desired width over the magnetoresistive
7 sensor element;
8 forming leads contiguous to and on opposite sides of the liftoff mask and
9 in contact with the magnetoresistive sensor element;
10 removing the liftoff mask, the removal of the liftoff mask leaving fencing
11 on the leads;
12 forming a layer of carbon over the leads after removal of the mask; and
13 performing chemical mechanical polishing on the leads at the fencing to
14 preferentially remove a portion of the leads including the fencing and a portion of the
15 carbon layer.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the desired width of the
2 liftoff mask is a trackwidth for the magnetoresistive read sensor.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the forming a liftoff mask
2 having a desired width further comprises forming a single layer liftoff mask.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising removing any
2 remaining carbon using an oxygen plasma.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the forming leads on
2 opposite sides of the liftoff mask further comprises depositing leads using a sputtering
3 process.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the forming the
2 magnetoresistive sensor element further comprises forming an anisotropic
3 magnetoresistive (AMR) sensor element.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the forming the
2 magnetoresistive sensor element further comprises forming a giant magnetoresistive
3 (GMR) sensor element.

- 1 13. (Withdrawn) A magnetic read sensor, comprising:
- 2 a magnetoresistive sensor element; and
- 3 leads, coupled to the magnetoresistive sensor element, the leads to the
- 4 magnetoresistive sensor element created by forming a liftoff mask having a desired width
- 5 over the magnetoresistive sensor element, forming leads contiguous to and on opposite
- 6 sides of the liftoff mask and in contact with the magnetoresistive sensor element,
- 7 removing the liftoff mask, the removal of the liftoff mask leaving fencing on the leads,
- 8 forming a layer of carbon over the leads and performing chemical mechanical polishing
- 9 on the leads at the fencing to preferentially remove the fencing.